

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2648

Introduced by Assembly Member Williams

February 24, 2012

An act relating to public postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2648, as introduced, Williams. Public postsecondary education: dedicated revenue source.

Existing law establishes the system of public postsecondary education in this state, which consists of 3 segments: the University of California, under the administration of the Regents of the University of California, the California State University, under the administration of the Trustees of the California State University, and the California Community Colleges, under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

This bill would express findings and declarations of the Legislature with respect to the funding of public postsecondary education in this state. The bill would express the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would increase the state's investment in public postsecondary education and to find a dedicated revenue source to fund public postsecondary education in California.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

1 (1) Each year, millions of Californians pursue degrees and
2 certificates at the state's institutions of higher education.

3 (2) The University of California educates approximately 237,800
4 undergraduate and graduate students at its 10 campuses, and is the
5 primary institution authorized to independently award doctoral
6 degrees and professional degrees in law, medicine, business,
7 dentistry, veterinary medicine, and other programs.

8 (3) The California State University has 23 campuses and
9 approximately 412,000 students, and is the largest, most diverse,
10 and affordable university system in the country.

11 (4) The California Community Colleges provides educational,
12 vocational, and transfer programs to approximately 2,600,000
13 students, and is the largest system of higher education in the world.

14 (5) General Fund support for higher education has declined
15 since the 2007–08 fiscal year.

16 (6) Increases in student tuition and fees, and declining course
17 offerings, have made it difficult for students to complete their
18 certifications and degrees in a timely manner.

19 (7) Graduates from the state's public postsecondary education
20 system contribute to industries that drive the state's economy.

21 (8) Funding public postsecondary education is an investment
22 in California's economy.

23 (b) Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to enact
24 legislation that would increase the state's investment in public
25 postsecondary education and to find a dedicated revenue source
26 to fund public postsecondary education in California.